

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I'm writing to urge you to support the proposed merger between EchoStar Communications and Hughes Electronics. I believe the merger holds tremendous potential for my company in Jacksonville, FL which sells EchoStar's DISH Network satellite TV service. The new company will offer a more attractive product to consumers, and this will mean more business for my company.

If the merger is approved, the new company will be able to offer local broadcast stations to all 210 of the nation's television markets. Currently, EchoStar offers service in only 36 markets. This is possible because both EchoStar and DIRECTV currently duplicate hundreds of channels of identical programming. By combining their limited spectrum, the new company will become a fully competitive cable alternative in every television market in the country. This will allow me to provide a better product to my customers in the near future.

For my customers who do enjoy access to high-speed DSL and cable Internet service, this merger will result in increased competition in the broadband market, because the new EchoStar will provide an affordable high speed Internet access service via satellite. This would help drive down prices of the DSL and cable providers. For those living beyond the reach of cable and DSL wires, the new EchoStar would be their only chance of affordable high speed Internet service.

The merger will allow the new company to better compete with cable. This is good for all consumers because subscribers to the new service will benefit from the competition on price and services whether or not they are served by cable.

Since its inception, direct broadcast satellite TV providers have offered uniform, nationwide pricing structures, and the new company has guaranteed that it will continue this practice. Nationwide pricing offers customers in rural America the full benefits of the rigorous competition occurring in urban and suburban areas. I can rest assured that satellite TV will remain a competitively priced product.

The new company will offer many benefits to customers, but the most important one is local broadcast channels via satellite in all U.S. television markets. This is the one service most sought after by my customers. I urge you to support the proposed merger between EchoStar and DIRECTV because local channels for all Americans is only possible if the companies are allowed to combine.

Sincerely,

Robert Tiemann
6776 Townsend Road #16
Jacksonville, FL 32244